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A business life after the
golden rule

Mr. & Mrs. Russell Perry
1922



WILLIAM AVERY MINER
1861—1920

*A Business Life After
the Golden Rule*

MEMORIAL
OF
WILLIAM AVERY MINER
1861-1920

WITH INTRODUCTORY SKETCH
OF THE MINER FAMILY

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

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FOREWORD

Observance of "The Golden Rule" is conceded to be the supreme need and duty in all the relations of life.

In the business world it would solve the questions now agitating both the old and new world.

If it only could be observed—But can it not be? Is it true that to observe it, is to invite failure? Is competition always the life of business? May it not be a business killer? Is to beat the other fellow", always a worthy incentive?

The reader is invited to a careful perusal of the Memorial of William A. Miner as showing some of the results of an honest attempt to observe this law as a business man.

It is the hope of the writer of this simple story that it may help to show the possibility and wisdom of making this the supreme law of life and thus hasten the day of its universal observance.

H. A. MINER.

Madison, Wis., Nov. 1st. 1921.

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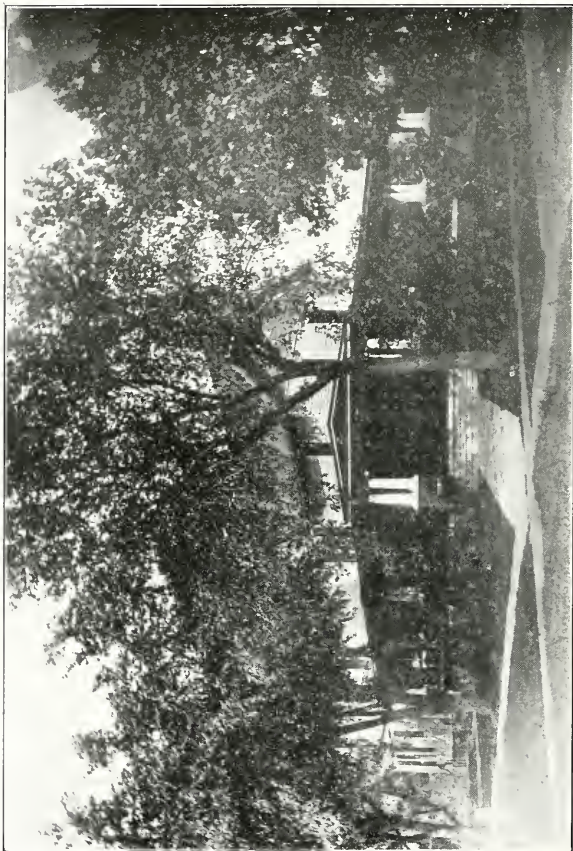
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THE RIDGEWAY HOME OF MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM A. MINER

INTRODUCTION

SKETCH OF THE MINER FAMILY

ORIGIN OF NAME

It is related that in the 14th century Edward III. King of England was at war with France. A Mr. Henry Bullman, in charge of a large mining interest, took a hundred of his men and entered into the service of the King. Such was the extraordinary success of Bullman and his men as to attract the notice of the King. As a mark of his approval, the King granted him a coat of arms with the name *Henry Miner* engraved thereon in recognition of his loyalty and patriotic devotion to the King and his cause.

This man died in 1359 leaving four sons, heirs at law of the realm.

FROM ENGLAND TO AMERICA 1630

At Stonington, Conn., stands a beautiful monument erected by the people of that city in memory of its founders. One of the names inscribed thereon is *Lieutenant Thomas Miner* (1608—1691) born in Chem Magna, Somerset County, England, the first Miner to migrate to this country, coming

on the ship *Arbella*, which reached Salem Harbor, June 14, 1630. He married Grace, daughter of Walter Palmer at Charleston, Mass., April 23rd. 1634. He took up his abode at Quiambug Stonington, Conn. in 1653, where he lived till his death Oct. 3, 1690.

In the same vessel, *The Arbella*, at the same time came *Christopher Avery*, who became the head of the Avery family, settling at Groton, Conn., the next town west of where the Miners settled and at about the same date. Their names are associated as founders of both Stonington and Groton, Conn.

As we read the early records of the colonial history of Connecticut we find the names of Miner and Avery frequently mentioned filling responsible positions both in Church and State. Evidently they were among the leading families all through the years preceding and during the revolutionary war.

As we read also the Muster Rolls of the Connecticut Volunteers, the defenders of Fort Griswold near New London in 1781, among whom nine Averys were numbered among the dead, and at Valley Forge where the roster bore the names of both the Miners and Averys, we are deeply impressed with the fact that these families were a long way from being numbered among the tories of the Revolutionary period.

GENEALOGY OF THE MINER FAMILY
IN AMERICA

LIEUT. THOMAS MINER, born April 23, 1608, married Grace Palmer in Charlestown, Mass. April 23, 1634; moved to New London, Conn., 1646. Their son,

MENASSAH, born April, 1647; married Lydia Moore. Their son,

ENATHAN, born Dec. 28, 1673; married Rebecca Baldwin March 21, 1694. Their son,

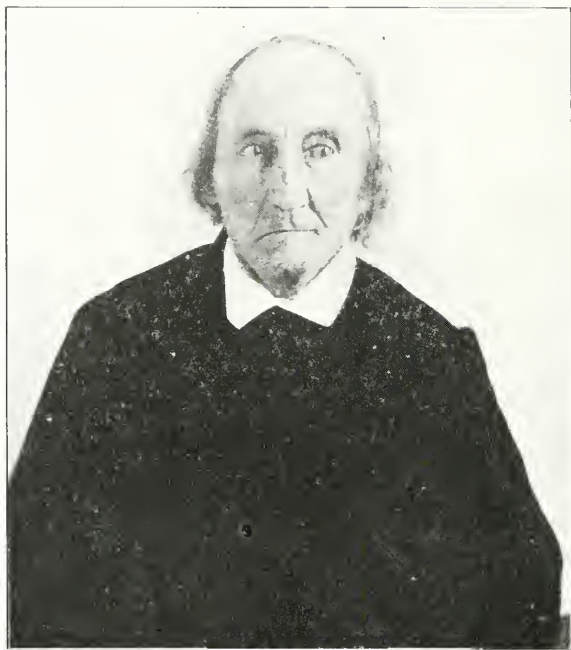
NATHAN, born July 16, 1724; married Sarah Smith March 7, 1751. Their son,

RICHARDSON, born Sept. 10, 1753, married Katherine Holman 1775. Their son,

SAMUEL HOLMAN, born March 21, 1776; married Anna Avery at Groton, Conn. Had three sons and three daughters. Their son,

SAMUEL ELBERT, born in Halifax, Vt. Dec. 13, 1815; married Maria Catherine Kelley at Oriskany, N. Y. Aug. 1843. Migrated the same year to Wisconsin. Had four sons four daughters. Their youngest son,

WILLIAM AVERY, born May 8th, 1861, whose memorial appears beginning on page 24.



SAMUEL HOLMAN MINER
1776 1857
Grandfather of W. A. Miner

SOJOURN IN VERMONT
SAMUEL HOLMAN MINER

The 7th in the line of descent from the first Miner in America, was born in Stonington, Conn., March 21st, 1776, the year of the Declaration of Independence. He learned the saddler's trade of his father to which he added the business of harness making, and about the beginning of the 19th century purchased a farm about two miles west of Halifax Center, Vermont.

This new country was not remarkable for the fertility of its soil; it required much hard labor, persistent industry and rigid economy in those days to provide the means for subsistence. Luxuries were not thought of. Schools were of the rudest sort and only for a few months of the year. Books were few in number but carefully read. In the center of the town was a "Meeting House" where the people gathered each Sabbath and spent a large part of the day in worship, listening to two sermons, and in social intercourse during the noontime hour. In this rocky hill-town, during nearly forty years the Miner family, using such helps as came within their reach, was able to furnish the heads of five other families, intelligent, honest, strong, earnest souls, with an ambition to make the world better for their

having lived in it. The following are their names: Austin, who married Relief Haven; Hannah, who married Samuel Niles; Nancy, who married Joshua Harris; Mary, who married Chandler Otis and Samuel Elbert, who married Maria C. Kelly.

THE VERMONT BRANCH MOVING WESTWARD

The first of the Halifax, Vermont branch of the Miner family to migrate west, was Samuel Elbert Miner, the youngest son of Samuel Holman and Nancy Avery Miner, born in Halifax Dec. 13, 1815.

At nineteen years of age he leaves home, goes as far as Troy, N. Y. and learns the carpenter's trade, joins the 1st Presbyterian Church and concludes to enter the ministry. He begins a course of preparation at Oneida Institute and Auburn Theo-Seminary, and after graduation is licensed to preach by Cayuga Presbytery and receives a commission from the American Home Missionary Society to go to Madison, Wis., on a salary of \$400.00 a year.

After his marriage to Miss Maria Catherine Kelly of Oriskany, N. Y., Aug. 23, 1843, he with his bride, met with a half dozen other young Missionaries at Buffalo on a Saturday, to spend the following Sabbath together, before taking the steamer on Monday for their different fields of labor in Wiscon-

sin and the West. Arrangements had been made for holding missionary meetings in the Presbyterian and Congregational Churches of the city, to be addressed by these out-going Missionaries. It proved a day of great interest.

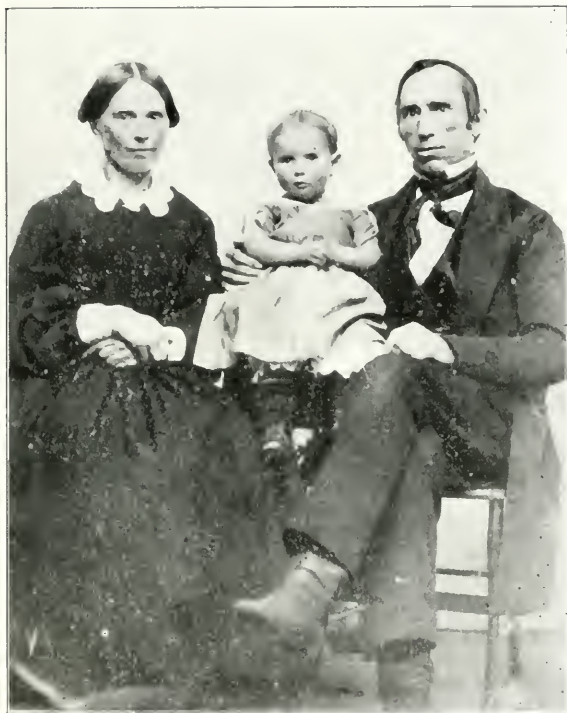
Another like day was planned for the following Sabbath on their arrival at Milwaukee and Chicago, where the missionary band was to separate.

At Milwaukee the Wisconsin Missionaries landed on Saturday and were met by Pastors, J. J. Miter of the Plymouth Congregational Church and A. L. Chapin of the Presbyterian Church, and the Wisconsin Home Missionary Agent, Rev. Stephen Peet. On the following day another Sabbath of Missionary meetings was enjoyed. On Monday the real hardships of the journey to Madison began.

It was not a matter of a few hours in a cushioned rail car or automobile gliding along swiftly over beautiful prairies, thru oak openings on hard macadamized roads, or even seated in a "Concord Coach and four" with a relay of fresh steeds every dozen miles or so, but a lumber mail wagon loaded with trunks, chests, bundles of bedding and numberless packages, with scant room for seats of any sort for passengers; and then the clay roads after the big fall rains and the almost bottomless marshes, over corduroy roads

made of uncovered logs, laid crossways of the road, and not the most elegant eating stations and lodging houses along the way for the nearly 100 miles to be traveled, was surely wonderfully in contrast with the previous week's journey "around the lakes" in the homelike steamer and delightful passengers aboard.

But the ending was most highly enjoyed. It was on the 20th of Oct., 1843. Such a hearty greeting as the new Missionary and wife received as they alighted at the American House with Mrs. Morrison, the landlady and leading member of the church, and Wm. N. Seymour Esq., the clerk of the church and leading citizen of the town, made them forget their weariness and banish all thought of being among strangers. It was a genuine Western heart greeting they received. There were venison from the near hunting grounds, trout from the lakes and cranberries from the not far away marshes already upon the table to satisfy the most dainty eater. And then on the first night after their arrival a prayer-meeting was held to greet the Missionary and wife, at the log school house, 18x24 feet, representing the entire educational and religious advantages of the infant city.



FATHER AND MOTHER
of
William Avery Miner

HIS WISCONSIN MINISTERIAL SERVICE

It was in this log school house in Madison, Rev. S. E. Miner began his seventeen years of Wisconsin Ministry. It was before Wisconsin was a state. Only three years before the 1st Congregational Church had been organized. The Capital was then a village of about three hundred people. A small Sunday school had been organized and maintained by a few Christian women. Mr. Miner's salary was only \$400 of which \$250 was paid by the American Home Missionary Society. During his three years pastorate he was Chaplain of the legislature and of the first Constitutional Convention. He led in the erection of the first church building which was dedicated in 1846 at a cost of \$2,000, \$500 of which was from friends outside of the town. It was regarded as a great event and an act of heroism on the part of the pastor. The edifice still stands on the original site occupied by the German Presbyterian Church.

Pastor Miner was compelled by over-work to resign his pastorate and take a period of rest.

MINISTRY AT ELKHORN

The next six years beginning with Dec. 1st, 1846, Rev. S. E. Miner spent at Elkhorn, the county seat of Walworth County. Here

he preached in the M. E. Church. After a period of seventy years the clerk of the church writes! "Rev. Miner's pastorate was marked by a steady growth, many accessions by letter and the organizing of a church society Dec. 1851 with the purpose of immediately building a house of worship."

MINISTRY AT WYOCENA

In 1852 Rev. S. E. Miner was commissioned by the A. H. M. Society to take charge of a Presbyterian church at Wyocena in Columbia County. He found the church practically disbanded. In the winter of 1852-3 a series of services were held resulting in the organizing of a church with eighteen members taking the name of the 1st Congregational Church of Wyocena. This was in March 1853. In April a church society was organized and steps taken to build a house of worship which was dedicated in March 1855.

In February 1854 at the close of another series of meetings eighteen were received to membership; and in connection with the church dedication, and the year following twenty-three more, making fifty-nine received during the pastorate which closed in Nov. 1858.

Besides the building of this church and the gathering of its membership, Missionary

Miner secured the erection of a school building and one of Gov. Slade's Missionary teachers from Vermont, who taught several terms of a select school. This was before the introduction of the high school system. Evidently the five and a half years of Mr. Miner's pastorate was a very fruitful one, of which the passage of over a half century has not obliterated the memory.

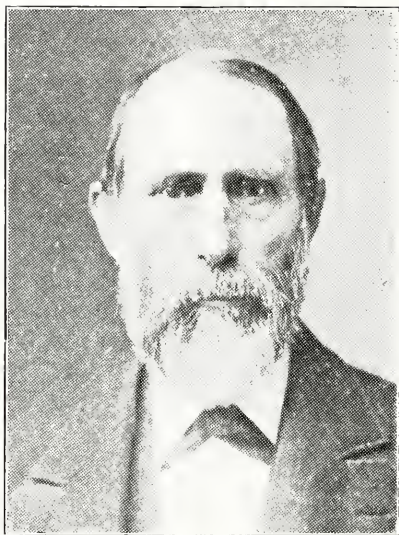
But the slow growth of the town and the crowding in of other churches dividing the support, together with the growing needs of his family compeled a change to a more hopeful field of labor. So, early in the winter of 1858-9, he accepted a call to Monroe, Wis., a city of near 4,000 people with the hope of having a larger congregation and a better support for his family.

CHANGE OF OCCUPATION

After one year's service as pastor at Monroe, Mr. Miner felt under the necessity of leaving the Ministry for lack of suitable support. He had put seventeen years of his life into the work of the churches, beginning on a salary of \$400. During these years the population and wealth of the state had more than quadrupled. His family had increased from two to nine members and his salary only from \$400 to \$600, which was the standard salary at that time. Neither the

Home Missionary Society nor church seems to have noted the increase of the cost of living nor the fact that Ministers must necessarily be unable to lay aside a surplus for the period of retirement. So it was a matter of necessity to leave the ministry to save himself and family from incurring a hopeless debt.

After engaging in the lumber business in Monroe, Brodhead and Burlingame, Kansas for about twenty years and his children had for the most part homes of their own, his two sons, Edgar S. and William Avery having located in the lumber business in northern Mo., the Father closed out his business in Wisconsin and spent the remainder of his days with his sons Edgar S. and William A. at Bethany and Ridgeway Mo. He retained to a remarkable degree, his vigor of body and mind. In the summer of 1898, accompanied by his two sons, he revisited Madison on the occasion of the fiftieth Anniversary of the State-hood of Wisconsin. Taking rooms in the Park Hotel, he received the many friends of his pioneer days. It was a great occasion and he enjoyed it immensely. It was his last visit to Wisconsin. He passed a happy old age, retaining the use of his faculties to the close of his earthly life which occurred June 26, 1904 at the age of 88 years, 6 months and 13 days.



SAMUEL ELBERT MINER
1815—1904
Father of Wm. A. Miner

His remains accompanied by his two sons were taken to Monroe, Wis., and placed by the side of his three wives, Maria Catherine, Lucy Haven Evans, and Olive Electa Haven; and a daughter, Ellen Matilda, who had preceded him to the world beyond, leaving two sons—Edgar S. and William A., also three daughters Mrs. Frances Maria Richardson, Mrs. Anne Mary Baker and Mrs. Alice Juliette Stump to mourn their father's departure.

In the memorial published by the Wisconsin Congregational Convention of which he was a member, his brethren speak of him as follows: "His place is on the roll of honor of Wisconsin's noble Home Missionary heroes. His convictions were intense. Into the anti-slavery movement he put all the force of his intense nature. In religion he caught the spirit of the trend toward the larger outlook, but the movement was too slow for his sanguine temperament. He was eager even to impatience to move the world rapidly to its goal of civil and religious idealism. He had his mission, he lived his message and his name is on the honor roll in God's book."

MEMORIAL
OF
WILLIAM AVERY MINER
A GOLDEN RULE BUSINESS MAN
IN THE MAKING



WILLIAM AVERY MINER
At Five Years

BIOGRAPHICAL

HIS EARLY DAYS

William Avery Miner was born in Brodhead Wis., the 8th of May 1861. He was the youngest son of Samuel Elbert and Maria C. Miner.

It was at the beginning of the great Civil War. A year of great excitement; the climax of many years of anti-slavery discussion. An appeal to arms had been made. Fort Sumpter, just off from Charleston South Carolina, had fallen at the hands of a rebel army April 12 th., 1861. A call for 75,000 men had been issued by President Lincoln. Volunteers were rushing to the defense of the dear old flag.

The infant, William Avery was growing peacefully at Brodhead, while his two brothers, Charles Elbert, a student in Oberlin College and Edgar S. in the midst of his teens in his Brodhead home, were at the front: the former to lay down his life on the Gettysburg battle field July 3rd, 1863, and the latter to serve in the first Wisconsin Cavalry, 2nd. Brigade, 1st Division, army of the Cumberland, under Grant, Sherman and Thomas

until the end of the war. Such was the intensity of the loyal spirit in the Miner home, that William A. was scarcely out of his cradle before he was heard singing :

“Down with the ‘tators,
Up with the ‘tars and ‘tripes.”

And the father nearly sixty years of age could not stay at home while the conflict was being waged but was off to the front, chief sanitary agent under Sherman, having special care of the Wisconsin wounded.

The war ended and the family after a sojourn of a few years at Brodhead regathered in 1865 at Monroe, save the mother who died July 24, 1861, and the eldest son, Charles S. whose remains lie buried in the Gettysburg cemetery.

It was here that William A. spent his boyhood days, graduating from the high school in June 1878 having taken a full classical and mathematical course.

While in school he began to show the elements of a successful career. A classmate tells us how he appeared to him in his school days. He says: “He was a pure minded, ingenuous boy, a close thinker, a faithful student—devoted to his home, loyal to his friends—one to whom insincerity and malice were unknown—whose fine character

was ever an inspiration to me, it being my earnest desire to maintain a place in his esteem."

It is reported that all thru his school days he was industrious, careful of his time lest it should run to waste. His vacations were utilized in a way to help towards his support. He was in school to secure an equipment for the days to come, when he should enter upon the real business of living. He early had a vision of a true manhood and sought for its attainment with genuine zeal.

CHOOSING HIS LIFE WORK

The choosing of one's life work is a critical period in a young man's life-history. The choice made is no small factor in his future life. With some, the choice may become apparent in the early development of youth, but in the great majority there seems to be no leading characteristic prophetic of the vocation to be.

In William Avery's case his Father suggested teaching and actually secured a good position, but the young man thought otherwise. Though he had been in a schoolroom for ten years, yet the open air, the broad fields outside, living things, cattle, horses, sheep, the growing grass and the golden grain had no attraction for him.

During his school vacations he had worked in Dodge's planing mill. A position was offered him in that mill which he accepted.

In the meantime his brother, Edgar S., having spent several years in his Father's lumber yard as a salesman, entered into partnership with Mr. B. M. Frees, a capitalist, connected with a large lumber interest in Chicago, who was to furnish the money, while Edgar furnished the experience and the entire management of a new yard to be located in a new region which he, Edgar, was to select for the business. His attention was directed to Bethany, a county town in northern Missouri, as a good location. It was just before the railroad had reached the town. The region was well settled by a thriving population, living in temporary houses with almost no outbuildings for lack of building material. It proved a splendid location for the retail lumber business. Here in 1880 the new firm, "Miner and Frees," located and at once began, determined to meet the growing demand of the town and surrounding country.

Edgar S. was quick to see the opportunity and wrote to his brother William A. to resign his position in the planing mill and pack his grip for Bethany just as speedily as possible. Not a day must be lost.

WILLIAM A. IN BETHANY

It was in March 1880 that William Avery made his first advent into Bethany a total stranger. He at once took the place of a common helper in the yard. It was a new experience. Of course his brother was there to introduce him to his customers and business friends.

He soon became acquainted with the young people of the town, who of course began to "size him up" among themselves. One of the number gives impressions as follows: "A young man of good habits, industrious, genial, bright, a favorite with all. Admired for his firmness, strength of purpose, always standing firm for what he thought was right."

After about a year a new yard was located at New Hampton and William Avery was the man to be placed in charge.

As yet his experience had been limited. But one year in the business, one of study and close observation. He had from the first determined to master the business. New problems confronted him which he set himself resolutely to solve. Men came to him for building material not knowing exactly what and how much would meet their needs. It occurred to him, it would be a good thing for him to be able to help his customers by suggesting what goods he had

in stock that would best meet their needs, be the most economical for them to purchase—and to do it in such a way as not to seem officious, but rather as an act of kindness. While he was there to make as large sales as possible, he was there also to be helpful to the purchaser.

And this he actually did. He made his customers satisfied with his treatment of them. They went away with the feeling that he was an honest man, that he had regard not only for his own interest but also for the interest of others. It was apparent that he not only believed in "The Golden Rule", but was actually practicing it.

Is it any wonder that the New Hampton yard was a success?

ENTERS THE LUMBER BUSINESS FIRM

Three years had passed. The firm, Miner and Frees, purchased a third yard located at Ridgeway, twelve miles north of Bethany, a town of about 300 population. This was in 1885. It was proposed to put the young man Miner in charge of this yard. Thus far he had worked on a salary and was saving what he could to build a house. He had found for himself a life companion in the person of Miss Martha A. Spencer of Bethany, one of Harrison county's successful school teachers, who has proved indeed a worthy helper in

life's journey. They were married in March 1882 and at once began housekeeping at New Hampton. About this time a proposition was made to William A. to become a member of the firm as an equal partner with Miner and Frees, the name of the firm to continue as before. The proposition was accepted, and so the firm consisted of the two brothers, Edgar S. and William A. Miner, and B. M. Frees.

HIS BUSINESS CAREER

The removal to Ridgeway and becoming a member of the firm, marks the real beginning of William Avery's business career. The five previous years were preparatory. He now, so to speak, "strikes his gait", as a business man.

Within the first year the Miner Brothers and B. M. Frees started a private bank at Ridgeway with a capital of \$5,000, of which William A. was the cashier. It was known as the "Ridgeway Exchange Bank." The institution started in the lumber office with a fire and burglar proof safe. The policy of each institution was, to run each on the profits of each, and use the surplus of each for the extension of each.

In December of 1902, the Ridgeway Exchange Bank had a paid up capital of \$15,000 and a surplus of \$3,000. At this date it was converted into the First National Bank of



MARTHA SPENCER AND WILLIAM AVERY MINER, Married 1882

Ridgeway and so became the oldest national bank in Harrison County, starting with a capital of \$30,000. At the time of William A's. decease (1920) its capital and surplus had reached \$76,000.

In the meantime the partnership of Miner and Frees in the lumber business had a remarkable growth. As the earnings of the yards permitted, other yards were opened till the total yards numbered twelve. In 1916 the Miner Brothers bought out the interest of Mr. Frees, and in 1917 the firm was incorporated with a capital of \$300,000, and the style of the firm name changed to Miner and Frees Lumber Company. During the next two years two yards more were added, making fourteen in all and at the time of William A's. decease (1920) the capital and surplus of the corporation was \$350,000, thus making the capital and surplus of the two institutions \$426,000.

This is certainly a remarkable showing of business success. How was it done? Especially if we call to mind the fact that forty years before, the two brothers began business together without a dollar. The question comes with added force—How did they do it? Note some of the answers given—

The Ridgeway Journal, speaking of the great success of the Lumber Company,

answers: "It is due to the persistent efforts of William A. Miner that this company has forged ahead and is supplying the building demand in their line over a large area of this part of the state. He understood every detail of the lumber and banking business and carefully watched all the little things that go far toward success, that many business men are apt to neglect".

Mr. Frank Hooker of Blanchard, Iowa, a director in the George Palmer Lumber Co., speaking of Mr. Miner's business qualities, replies: "Few whom I have met had a keener grasp for business, a vision that sensed situations and future alignments; magnanimous and fair in his estimate of others opinions—

'And as our greatest, yet with least pretence * * *

Great in Council

Rich in saving common sense'."

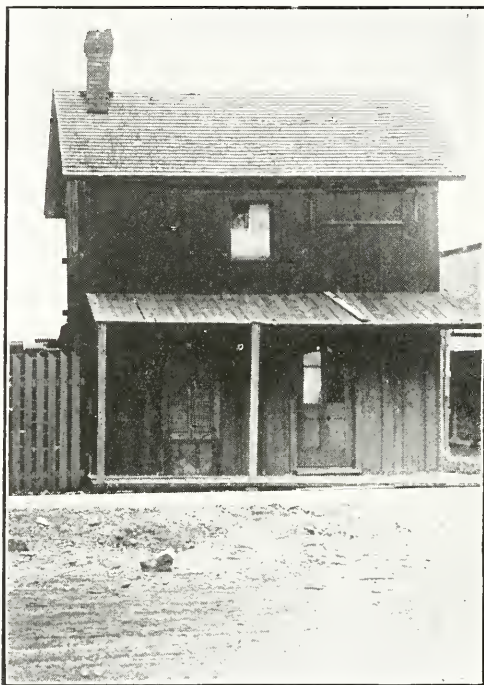
Charles G. Buffum, President, La Crosse Lumber Co., makes answer: "He was a man of wonderful foresight, consistent, considerate and upright in all his dealings. I do not believe there is anyone in the lumber fraternity who stood higher than William A. Miner.

Mr. J. L. Proctor of Kansas City, Mo., in reply, says: "He typified our highest class of business men. His reputation for square dealing was wide spread."

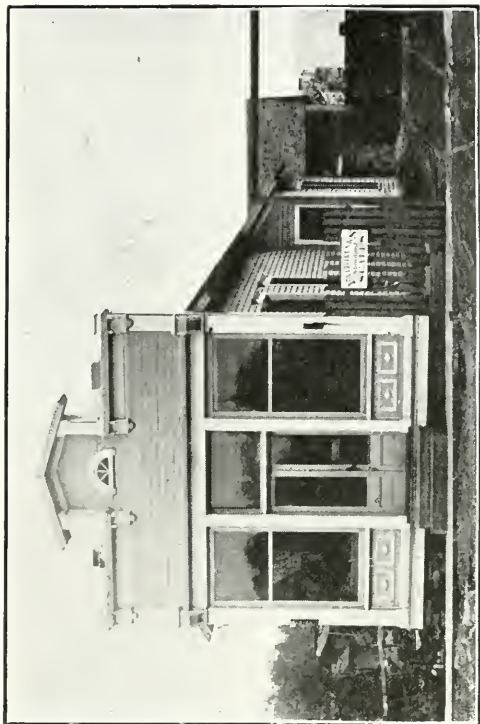
It must not be forgotten that B. M. Frees was a member of this Company for twenty-five years, whose known financial standing and integrity of character was a tower of strength; or that his brother Edgar, was the pioneer in starting of the business and ever held a guiding hand. Giving due credit to the ability and push of the management, was there not a method of doing business—a spirit of honorable, square dealing, a purpose to treat their customers in accordance with the “Golden Rule”—which was above all else, the one great secret of their success?

It has been said that the adoption of the Golden Rule in this competitive age, is to invite disaster. But it was not thus with the Miner and Frees Lumber Co. Instead of inviting disaster, it invited a splendid success. It drew customers from near and far. It was a pleasure to trade with such a firm. The Golden Rule principle in the world's business, if adopted, would go far towards making earth a paradise.

We ask our readers to turn to the “tributes” on the last pages of this book for a view of William A's standing as a business man where he was best known. We are sure you will say it pays to obey the Golden Rule. It makes a *Golden Life*.



First Ridgeway Lumber Office and Exchange Bank, 1885



The 2d Ridgeway Lumber Office, 1890
and
Ridgeway Exchange Bank Building



First National Bank, 1903, of Ridgeway
President WILLIAM A. MINER

SOME
LEADING CHARACTERISTICS

*“We live in deeds, not years—
In thoughts, not breaths—
In feelings, not in figures on a dial;
We should count time by heart-throbs,
He most lives,
Who thinks most, feels the noblest, acts the
best.”*

Baleys Festus

HIS HOME IDEAL

No doubt the reader of the previous pages of this life sketch, has already come to see that Wm. A. Miner is in business, not to achieve wealth for his own sake, but for what he can accomplish with it. He knows that money is power, that with it the power of his own personality can be greatly increased. That with it he can avail himself of much enjoyment that he could not otherwise expect. He has a far higher goal before him than simply money getting. His home life in childhood and early youth, was in the midst of an atmosphere that inspired a much higher goal than the wealth that perishes.

One of the first things that claimed his attention was the establishing of a home of his own. He has an ideal of the home he wants. It is not a place simply to eat in by day and sleep in by night, but a place really *to live in*. A place such as shall minister, not only to the comfort of the physical man, but also to the intellectual and spiritual needs of its occupants— a place in which to grow, to cultivate the mind and heart, to reach out after and attain the largest possible measure of imperishable riches.

He had made choice of a life companion, as

we have before noted, and now the home is to be the product of two ideals united in one. Happily the union is real and the two, as one, begin the work of building with reference to the family life yet to be.

The building is not to be completed in a day or a year. It is to be continuous building, reaching over a life period.

His call in 1885 to take charge of the new yard at Ridgeway with the prospect of permanency, made it necessary to look for a location in that town for the realization of his ideal. It must be with reference to health, scenery, immediate surroundings and distant outlook.

The location was happily chosen on a corner fronting east and south looking towards the business part of the town, about three or four blocks away; the block immediately in front being a public park covered thick with trees where the birds make their nests and the air is vocal with their songs, while the squirrels leap from branch to branch in their nimble plays—A spacious two story edifice with wide verandas on the south and east, with easy chairs and wide doorways opening within, having an inviting look to the passer by, is the ideal to be realized.

Within there is to be found not only the usual number of rooms, but an equipment from cellar to attic, such as will lighten the

burdens of house-keeping and minister to the comfort, health and enjoyment of each member of the family. In the family room is a well furnished library, not as a piece of furniture for decorative purposes, but as a working library, with shelves filled with books—historic, scientific, literary; maps, pictures, portraits of distinguished characters; curiosities of various kinds, mementos of places visited by the parents in various parts of our home land—A home museum it is to be. Here also are materials for indoor home games for wholesome entertainments, in which parents and children and neighborly guests may participate.

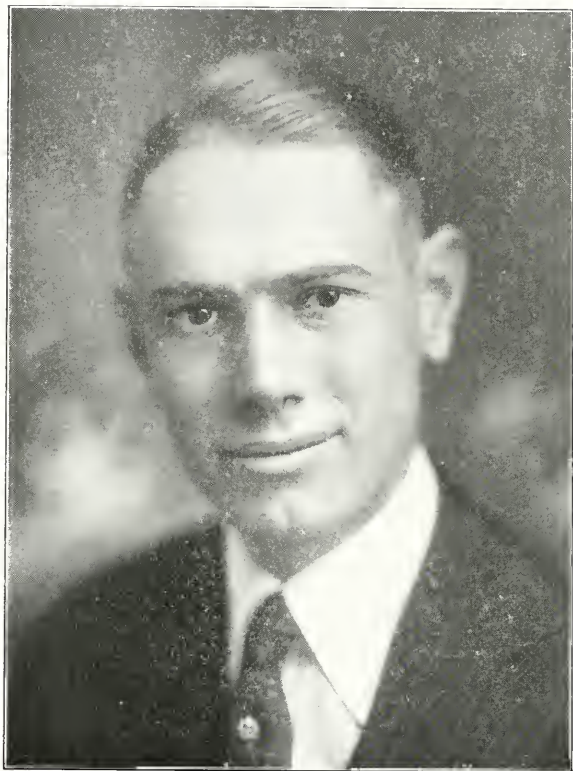
This is to be indeed the *family living room*; the place where the marriage vow of a oneness of purpose in mind and heart finds expression, where unity of spirit in all matters pertaining to household management—the getting over hills of difficulty in the ongoing of family life, the planning together to make home brighter, more restful, more and more a type of Heaven. It is to be the place where the children, as they come one by one into the family circle, breathe in the family atmosphere, take on the lineaments of the home life, growing more and more into the likeness of their parents; in a word, the place where father, mother and children help each other to grow more and more into the life eternal.

In such a family room, where the spirit of the Divine Master presides, as in the case of the "Martha and Mary Home" of Sacred story, is it possible for children to grow up in such an atmosphere and go astray in after life? If all homes were after this pattern what a change we would have in the social conditions of earth? A new world indeed, we soon would have.

Husbands and fathers are not always mindful of the important part, they are under sacred obligations to take in the life of the home. Not a few seem to feel that with being a "bread winner", a "good provider," their obligations to home are ended. Not so with Wm. Avery. He loved his home better than any other spot of earth. He spared neither time nor money to make things comfortable and delightful. When he closed his office for the day, he would hasten to his home to spend the evening with his family. He was never happier than when he had his family about him. His three boys were his chums. When small they would look for his coming and run with glee to meet him and then such a frolic they would have! As they grew in years he would have games with them. He was like an elder brother, interested in what they were interested in. He knew what they were doing; they would report their doings to each other. Thus they



CHARLES F.



ELBERT S.



ERWIN A.

grew in mutual confidence and love. They would take walks together, hunt for birds nests, watch and feed the young birdlings. They had their hens and chickens to care for, and were taught how to keep an account of the expense of feeding and returns from sales. And so in various ways he kept himself in the hearts of the boys. The father, mother and the boys made a *real* family, illustrating in the concrete the meaning of the word "*family*".

HIS NEIGHBORLINESS

It is not good to live alone. A hermit life is a calamity. A man without neighbors is to be pitied. To attempt to live within oneself with no interchange of thought, feeling or sentiment with others, is slow suicide.

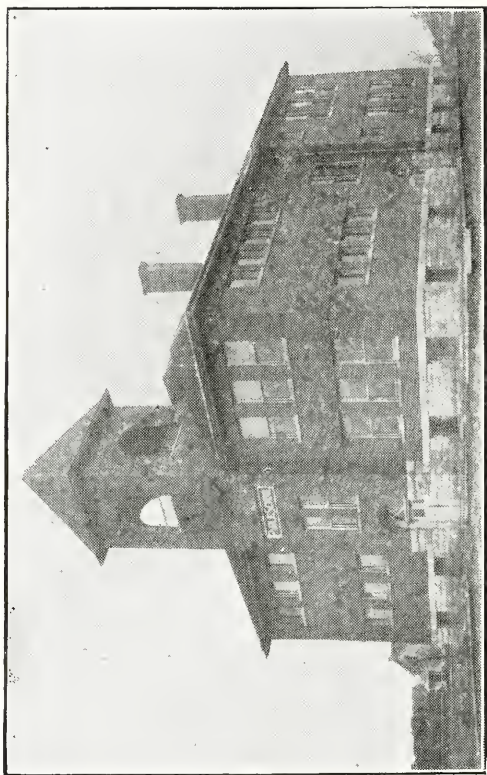
With the first coming of William A. Miner to Ridgeway, there came a spirit of neighborliness that grew as the years went by. As his ability for helping increased, so increased the help he gave. It was said of him: "he was never too busy to stop and listen to the cry of want, no matter from whence it came."

While time with him was very precious, yet his office door was never so tightly closed but that it would open to give ear to the statement of a neighbor in want; not only would he give advice but often would render the

financial aid that the case required. It was stated that in the large business of which he was the manager, "no one was ever made to suffer loss by reason of unneighborly methods of collection. A spirit of accommodation even to his own hurt, would be shown. It was this characteristic of brotherly kindness in his business relations that made him such a favorite.

"He was a friend to all," said a business man, writing from his California home on hearing of his death. "In my over thirty years dealing with Mr. Miner, he never refused me any accommodation I ever asked of him."

His neighborliness found expression in the initiation of various town improvements. Soon after making Ridgeway his home he began to make suggestions as to the improvement of streets, sidewalks, and front yards, thus making the town more attractive. He aided largely in the building of its two houses of worship and a commodious, up to date school house. Thru his liberal offer, a whole block was secured for a site in an excellent location, and a fine building erected which has the reputation of housing one of the best schools in the county. He set the example of erecting permanent business houses in place of the old, cheap, wooden buildings. He was one of five who erected a fine, modern,



THE RIDGEWAY HIGH SCHOOL

brick hotel, which has a patronage equal to hotels in much larger towns. Such has been the spirit of public improvement, that today the town presents, in the appearance of its business and public houses and homes, the neatness, thrift, prosperity and public enterprise of many larger towns in the older sections of the state. No small portion of the credit of the change wrought in this town, the citizens affirm, is due to the large hearted, generous neighborliness of William A. Miner.

“My country, sir, is not a single spot
Of such a mould, fixed to such a clime ;
No, 'tis the social circle of my friends,
The loved community in which I lived
And in whose welfare all my wishes center.”
—Miller.

HIS PATRIOTISM

We have received an immense legacy from the hands of our forefathers. Three hundred years ago this country, we called the United States of America was a vast wilderness from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico and from ocean to ocean. Think of what it is today! The immense cultivated fields covered with the homes of a hundred million of people in the possession of cottages, towns, villages and cities; of work shops, ware houses, mills, factories, business houses of various kinds; of public edifices, government

buildings, schools, colleges, hospitals, sanitariums for the treatment of all sorts of diseases; of railways, with a network of iron reaching hundreds of thousands of towns and cities, scattered over this immense territory of ours, of the millions upon millions of miles of wire thru which we speak or send our messages to the ends of the earth; our postal and other kinds of machinery for alleviating human toil, supplementing or greatly multiplying our forces of body and mind—all of which has come into being since the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock and into the possession of the generation now on American soil—think of it—what it means to us of today!—us, as compared with the millions in other lands! Can we think of it and not lift our hats to “Old Glory?” Can we think of it and not lift our voices with hearts overflowing with thanksgiving and sing:

“My Country, ’tis of thee,
Sweet land of liberty,
Of thee I sing:
Land where my fathers died,
Land of the Pilgrims pride,
From every mountain side
Let freedom ring.”

William A. Miner thought of it. And as he thought of it, was it any wonder that with the blood of the Pilgrims flowing in his veins

and remembering that his ancestors fought and fell in such numbers at Fort Griswold in 1781, and that his father was an old time abolitionist, a conductor on the underground railway and that two of his brothers were in the civil war, one making the supreme sacrifice at Gettysburg— was it any wonder that his love of liberty should burst forth with flaming zeal in the hour when the world's freedom was in peril? Was it any wonder that the Governor of his state should select William A. Miner, to take the chairmanship of his county committee to raise the quota, not of one, but of each of the several Liberty Loans? And was it any wonder that his county should “go over the top” in each of the campaigns? And is it any wonder that in various other ways and at various other times he championed the interests of his country?

With him patriotism meant something more than to sing the songs of liberty when others were singing, or to shout for freedom when others were shouting. It was a principle with him to make his country's interests his interest, not only in time of war but all the time. Said one of his employees after sixteen years of service: “He always showed a deep interest in the welfare of the public, not only in his own town and community, but in all others, wherever his business expansions opened the way. He gave freely of

his time in connection with such as were working for any good moral or patriotic movement."

Another, who was closely associated with him in raising the Liberty Loans says: "The fidelity, unfailing zeal and personal sacrifice with which he prosecuted the work, commanded my unstinted respect and admiration. He was a true patriot. In all his work for the government, he never seemed to care anything for the personal credit or honor that might naturally accrue to him from a successful performance of the work he was set to accomplish, but he was ever greatly concerned lest the honor of his country be not maintained and the conflict be not pushed on to complete and speedy victory."

HIS RELIGION

Religion is the crowning glory of humanity—It is the chief characteristic that distinguishes the human from the brute. Its possession places man on a grade of illimitable growth, which means immortality.

Every man has a religious nature. No nation or tribe has been found but has a religion of some sort. It is a matter of no small account as to what sort it is, and the extent of its influence over a man's life.

William Avery Miner had a Christian parentage. He grew up in a Christian

home. His early surroundings were such as to call forth the best there was in him. His early development of character was in the main Christian. The virtues of the Christian religion were taught him, as his intellectual and moral faculties developed. He breathed a Christian atmosphere. As the health of his body was carefully guarded, lest any disease should attack him; and should any symptoms of disease appear, remedies were applied and special care bestowed until complete recovery was secured, so also his morals were carefully guarded and vices corrected by an appeal to his reason and sense of right, rather than to brutal force as was so frequently the case in former years. There was a parental discipline exercised in the formation of correct habits of thought and feeling so easily taken on by children in their early years, especially when administered in love, that it is no wonder that he began to grow into the Christian life very early, so early, that as with many others, he was unable to state the precise time of his so called conversion. There were epochs in his life experience when he entered upon new lines of Christian duty, as for example the formal uniting with a church, which he did not do until 1908; that, some might say, was the date of his becoming a Christian. It was the date of an important avowal of his practical

belief in the Lord Jesus Christ, but it was not the beginning or the first act of his Christian life. He had performed many Christian acts before that date. He had in many ways showed his allegiance to Jesus Christ, contributed liberally for the support of the Gospel at home and in other lands, had stood firmly for the cause of truth and righteousness, even at a sacrifice of time and means, had acted the part of the "Good Samaritan" many a time, had for years striven to do business according to Christ's New Testament teachings, had been neighborly and in a large way, not for reward, or for the sake of future benefits to come to himself but from the impulse of genuine love for others—Was he not a real follower of the great Master of all goodness, the world's redeemer?

But he had not joined any one of the various groups of men and women, called churches. Why not?

In his younger days he saw some things in churches that he could not endorse, and had met with good honorable men that did not belong to any church, that he thought were better than some church members, even some who were officials; men that he would go to for a favor sooner than some in the churches; and besides this, he could not endorse the creeds and methods of worship that he

thought he would have to, in case he joined a church. He believed in freedom of thought and that a man could be a true Christian without joining a church, and be just as useful a member of society or even more so, than if he were a member of a church.

After a few years, having married a devoted member of a church and thus being brought into closer social relations with the church, he came gradually to see that the main purpose of a church, was not to propagate a creed or a peculiar ritual or form of worship, or to interfere with a man's freedom of thought or breadth of vision, but to set before its membership a standard of character far higher than any other organized group of people that he knew anything about; that its moral teachings were of the highest order, that criminal statistics showed the least number of arrests and convictions from the ranks of churches in proportion to their membership as compared with any other organized body; that the gathering together on the Sabbath for instruction in the practice of humane and righteous living after the teachings and example of Jesus Christ, the world's Redeemer, and engaging in acts of worship of a being of absolute perfection, must work for the highest good of any community, as no other human agency that he knew about was doing; and that in general judging from the fruitage of churches as compared with other



MRS. MARTHA A. MINER.

organized bodies, he came to see that his position was untenable; that the church, with all its failings, was the most efficient agency for the world's betterment, for the removal of the ills of humanity of any within his knowledge and that as a follower of the world's Redeemer it was his plain duty to identify himself with some one of the churches within his community in which he could derive the most benefits and at the same time be the most useful to his family and the community in which he dwelt.

It is true that had he done it earlier in life he and the world would have been the gainer. But, as if to make up for lost time, he gave himself with marked devotion to the interests not only of his own but of other churches also. He gave the weight of his influence to every line of Christian endeavor. It was his joy thus to do.

He believed that the church of which he had become a member, had claims upon him that other churches had not, just as his family had claims upon his time and energies that other families had not. In other words his membership imposed obligations upon him that other churches had no right to even expect of him. So as a matter of principle he was true to his church, but at the same time recognized other churches as helpers in the work of the world's regeneration. Rev. J.

Howard Thompson formerly pastor of the M. E. Church of Ridgeway, bears the following testimony. "While I was a resident in Ridgeway, Mr. W. A. Miner, while not a member of my church, showed great interest in me and my work. At Christmas time each year he freely furnished my table with a big, luxurious, dressed turkey of the finest selection. Not only at this time but all the time he seemed desirous of doing the big thing for us. When our Conference met with us, his home opened as freely and widely as any home of my congregation, for the entertainment of delegates, and he and his wife seemed delighted to make any kind of sacrifice necessary to make the stay of their guests as pleasant as possible."

He believed heartily in the cooperation of different denominations. It was not at all in accordance with his spirit to put so much emphasis upon the non-essentials of the so-called Christian doctrines, as to occasion such wide separations as to forbid the uniting of the professed followers of Jesus Christ into one church, in the case of small communities unable to support more than one efficient organization. And in any town it is not only unwise but a wicked waste to put in another church when there are already as many churches as can be efficiently supported.

He believed and thoroughly practiced in his

church relations, as in his business relations, in "The Golden Rule." It was a grief to him that churches, professing to be the followers of the same Master, located in the same community should be envious of each others successes and actually lay obstacles in the way of each others progress as has been too often the case in years past, especially in small towns.

He believed in extending the warm hand of Christian fellowship to every church of Jesus Christ. He rejoiced in victories won for our common Lord and Master whether by his own or other denominations and heartily despised the spirit that would depreciate any good work wrought by another.

HIS LAST YEARS

During the last years of his life he was accustomed to take occasional trips with his wife visiting various localities North, East and West; and with his brother, annual hunting trips South to Texas and other points in the Rocky Mountain region. They were for recreation and the gathering of mementoes of various kinds for the enriching of his home cabinet.

It was during the last days of September 1919 that I had my last visit with him. He seemed to be in about his usual health. He had spent a few weeks at a Sanitarium for

treatment. We had a delightful time together for a few days. As we parted at the station he slipped an envelope into my hand saying: "I thot you might like to have my autograph. You'll find it inside." I slipped the letter into my pocket thanking him for his kindness and jumped aboard the train. After a little it occurred to me to open the letter it being carefully sealed. To my surprise it contained two new ten dollar bills from his bank with his signature as president. Such autographs are valuable.

During the late fall and winter his disease returned with increased suffering. Not obtaining the desired relief, in March 1920 he went to the celebrated hospital at Rochester, Minn. But it was too late. After about a week his disease took a fatal turn and in a few days March 22, 1920, he was called to his Eternal Home beyond.

It was a great shock to his friends far and near. A large crowd gathered at the family home March 26th, for the final service conducted by his pastor Rev. L. Alexander, assisted by Rev. Messrs. Douglas and Welsh from Bethany under the direction of the Masonic fraternity, of which he was a member.

The large attendance, in spite of the rain and bad condition of the roads in the

surrounding country spoke eloquently of the large place the deceased had made for himself in the hearts of his neighbors and citizens throughout a large section of North Missouri.

We have lost "A Friend to Man", the one word spoken by the multitude.

*"That Life is long which answers Life's
great end."*

—Young.

"It matters not how long we live, but how."

—Bailey.

"Life is the gift of God and is divine."

—Longfellow.

PERSONAL TRIBUTES

From Mr. & Mrs. C. M. Jaqua,
formerly neighbors and editor of
Ridgeway Journal and since fifteen
years, of Warrenburg Herald.

It was with deep sorrow that we learned of Will's death. We sympathize with you and the boys in your great sorrow, for we realize, as old neighbors, how close the family attachment and your great loss and sorrow. We also feel that we have lost one of our dearest and most valued friends. From our close association with him in public matters while we lived in Ridgeway we know his great heart and worth and his desire to make the world better for his having lived, to assist his friends and build up the community with which he was identified. His was a great and unselfish mind, a mind not bound by narrow confines. To his foresight and enterprise as well as liberality, Ridgeway is largely indebted for her "worth while" things. He has builded for himself in his life work a greater monument than can be made at his tomb with mortal hands. Your loss is our loss and the community's loss, and in your deep sorrow you have our heart-felt sympathy.

From A. L. Alexander, Pastor
Christian Church, Ridgeway, Mo.

It is difficult to write an adequate appraisal of a soul so rare as was Wm. A. Miner. In a truly wonderful sense he was an all-round character, a man marvelously many-sided, and with each side of wondrous richness and beauty. He was a man gifted with a really remarkable faculty for making and retaining friends.

He was a home builder and maker above all—the type of man who embodies and combines in himself the best traditions of American Christianity.

The dominant characteristic of Mr. Miner was his spirit—His was a primitive spirit—Unrestrained, simple, kindly—Chastened by adversity and sweetened by understanding. It manifested itself in a cheery welcome and an urdent friendship to all.

I am glad, at the parting of the way, to pay this small tribute to the standing qualities of William A. Miner.

From Mr. R. M. Stanley, Auditor
of Miner & Frees Lumber Co.

I knew William A. Miner from my boyhood. He was our banker and was always the writer's personal adviser. I knew him as an employer and in the sixteen years which I spent in his service, saw his upright character always reflected in his deep interest in the general welfare of the public, not only in his own town and community, but in all others where his business expansions led the

way for personal community interest. He always manifested a great interest in the personal welfare of his employees, as well as his other business associates. His time was always given freely in the council of those who were working for any good moral or patriotic achievement.

I knew William A. Miner socially; I knew him fraternally; I knew him in business. To know him as I knew him was to love and respect him. In his demise the writer feels a deep personal loss, as all feel who really knew him. Respect to the memory of William A. Miner.

From Mr. Chas. G. Buffum, Pres.,
La Crosse Lumber Co. yards in Mo.

After an acquaintance covering over 40 years with William A. Miner, an intimate acquaintance the last 20 years, I feel that I am in a position to pass on his integrity and uprightness of character. He was a man of wonderful foresight, consistent, considerate and upright in all his dealings. I do not believe there is anyone in the lumber fraternity who stood higher than Wm. A. Miner, and in his passing the community wherein he lived has lost a valuable citizen and the business concerns he was interested in, a wise advisor. I know this particularly in the case of the George Palmer Lumber Co., where he and I were interested and his counsel today is missed. His association with Mr. B. M. Frees and Mr. Frees' high regard for him, is enough to commend him most highly.

From Mr. M. D. Shamblin, formerly Station Agent at Ridgeway. A long time friend.

I am totally at a loss to put in words what I feel when trying to write a tribute to Wm. A. Miner. I have known him from the spring of 1885. During these 35 years I always had the most profound respect for him in a business way. We held the same faith religiously, belonging to the same secret society and in fact we took portions of the secret work together. I have had business transactions with him all these years and always of the most pleasant nature. His word was all sufficient with me as I never knew an instance he did not do just as he said. I have associated with him in his home, in lodges, in the church and have traveled with him and never associated with a more honorable man. His knowledge of business conditions of the country and current news was far ahead of the average man. He was a great student of history; not only knew it but could tell it. As a financier he excelled all his associates in Ridgeway in 1885. Had I heeded his suggestions many times I would have been much better off financially than I am now, as he proposed many times a working together in some deals which always were winners. During his life he remarked to me once "Mel if you ever get in a tight place and want help call on me." I always felt as tho there was one man I could turn to if in need and I knew if in his power I would receive help. Next to my only living brother I considered Wm. A. Miner as my next of kin along with

his and my old time friend W. C. Elder, now of Albany, Mo. We three were in Ridgeway at the same time in 1885 and practically the same age. I will cherish the memory of Wm. A. Miner as long as life lasts.
Bethany, Mo., Nov., 1920.

Rockford, Ill., Mar. 24, 1920.
Dear Mrs. Miner and Family:

Space is no barrier to thought. At the moment of writing this, in our unison of thought, I feel as near to you as if I held you by the hand. In the same way, though stunned by a great sorrow, I have not a sense of separation from him whom we mourn.

That which we see borne from the door is not the one of whom we think and speak to-day. The loving devotion, the kindly solicitude, the wise counsel continue with us in their guiding character and influence and will do so till the end.

Written in a youth's diary in the early hours of life's day I find these words, "Will Miner is my best friend." Many times since I have repeated them and with confident assurance I say them today.

To you and to me and to many another he has left as his richest legacy the influence and abiding memory of a devoted husband and father, a loyal friend, a sincere and honorable character.

With the deepest consideration for you all, I am also a mourner.

E. C. CORNELIUS.

From J. Howard Thompson, formerly Pastor M. E. Church, Ridgeway, now of Unionville, Mo.

Rarely have I found a friendship so deep and true as that which existed between me and Mr. W. A. Miner. During my stay in Ridgeway he took a deep concern for me and manifested his keen interest in me and my family in so many ways. I feel that in his going away I personally have lost a sincere and true brother. While not a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, yet he stood on that high plane of fraternity and altruism as to utterly hide denominationalism far in the back ground and what seemed to interest him most was to do the big thing every time and all the time.

In business he was progressive, aggressive and a leader. His spirit of initiative was dominative and he was at the forefront of everything of a progressive nature for his town and community. The new and modern brick hotel in Ridgeway will always stand as a monument to his public spirit. Good roads, public improvement, the schools of the city, the churches of the community, the beautifying of the parks and public places, caring for the poor, benevolent giving, presiding over the Red Cross Organization, and many other laudable and worthy enterprizes, all commanded his most careful attention. His family, his town, his church, his business and his entire community have suffered an irreparable loss in his going away.
Unionville, Mo. 1920.

From C. A. Stoner, Sec. Chamber
of Commerce,. S. S. Supt., Pres.
Church Board.

I always admired William A. Miner as being very frank and honest. If he was asked for advice or his opinion in a matter he not hesitate to give it just the way he looked at it and as he thought it regardless of whether it was what the seeker of advice wanted to hear and it was this noble trait of his that in my opinion made him the great friend of men that he was. His advice was given in exactly the same way that he would have given it to one of his own boys.

He always championed the side of right. During the years that I knew him I never once saw him hesitate in a decision when there was a principle of right and wrong involved but he unhesitatingly came out on the side of right and fought for it. Neither did he attempt to shirk responsibility for the sake of policy but fought for the right knowing that it should and would eventually rule. His standard of life was such that a wrong principle did not receive a moment's consideration.

His counsel on all community questions was wise and eagerly sought. We miss him in the study of our city problems, our community enterprises and our church program and what he had to say in these matters was usually heeded and his was the guiding hand.

He was devoted to his church and the longer he lived the more attached to it he became. As long as he was able to come and was in town he was at the Sunday morning

services both church and Sunday school and enjoyed them. He served on the church board and as one of its trustees and did much toward shaping its policies.
Ridgeway, Mo.

Mrs. W. A. Miner,
Ridgeway, Missouri.

My dear Sister Miner:

It is with sadness indeed that I hear of the death of Brother Miner and I wish to express to you my sincere sympathy in this sad hour. Brother Miner was a man who stood strong and true in the midst of men, not only in the business world but in his church relations and all that counts to building up communities and making for the welfare of his fellow men. His death is a distinct loss to the community in which he lived and the cause of right throughout the state.

Brother Miner was a good friend of Culver-Stockton College and was very much interested in the training of young men for leadership in the church. In behalf of Culver-Stockton as well as an expression of my personal feelings, I wish you to know that we remember you and all the members of the family in this time of sorrow.

J. H. Wood, Pres. of Culver-
Stockton College
Canton, Mo., March 29, 1920.

From T. L. Porter, Manager of Kansas City for Sabine Lumber Co.

As a personal and business friend of William A. Miner, for more than a decade, I wish to pay tribute to one of the finest characters it has been my privilege to encounter along life's way.

I formed a very intimate acquaintance with him during the last fourteen years of his life and I can truthfully say that that friendship stands out distinctly as one of the most pleasant I have had the fortune to make. Its memory will be retained as long as I live.

William A. Miner typified our highest class of business men. He was honest, sincere and his reputation for square dealing was widespread. His was a very democratic spirit. Social and business inequalities never interfered with his friendship. His pleasant smile and hearty handshake carried to me a message which could not be put into words. From frequent visits I gained an insight into a most cordial and happy home. I was always to feel "at home" during my visits.

It is my earnest desire that the relationship, which has existed between myself and Mr. Miner's business, be continued for I know that the principles which guided him in all his endeavors, are incorporated in that business and that it will stand always, under the supervision of his brother and sons, as a memorial to a man whose death has left a void in the hearts of many men, a void which cannot be filled.

Kansas City, Oct. 19, 1921.

From Mr. Frank Hooker, Pres.
Blanchard Trust and Savings Bank,
Blanchard, Iowa, 1920.

My first acquaintance with Mr. Miner was in a business meeting some few years ago. I was attracted to him by his pleasing personality, his business judgment and knowledge of the problems under consideration.

We were from that time till his death in close association and I learned to know him intimately and with the passing time, it ripened into real friendship.

Several times a year we were for days and weeks together and in the finer and intimate heart life of the man I was permitted to measure his love for his family, their welfare; his love for country and its traditions; his intense loyalty to every public call; his high sense of honor and character, together with the little glimpses of the things sacred and spiritual, made me covet and prize his friendship and association.

He was preeminently a business man, few whom I have met who had a keener grasp of business, a vision that sensed situation and future alignments, magnanimous and fair in his estimate of other's opinions—

“And as our greatest, yet the least pretence,

Great in council * * *

Rich in saving common-sense.”

We revere his memory and my life will be the richer and better for having known William A. Miner.

From Rev. W. S. Welsh, Pastor
M. E. Church, Bethany.

It seems to me always that I must ever have seen William A. Miner at his best, for I never saw him other than as a high minded gentleman with perfect manners and generous kindness. I have been with him many times, and often under trying circumstances, but I have never seen him swerve by the slightest degree from the courteous deportment of the perfect gentleman. Not that he was not firm and forceful, but he possessed these qualities in a marked degree, but that in him firmness and force were perfectly toned with courtesy and kindness.

He was a man of fine parts, of energy and talent, of apparently untiring energy, and faithful to the task he had assumed. Cheerful, affable and optimistic, he was a superbly companionable man, ever concerned for the happiness of his friends. He was the kind of stuff that friends are made of. He was a friend to me. I counted his friendship as one of the gifts of God. I am certain that my life has been enriched and made better by my fellowship with him. I was closely associated with him in his work of raising the Liberty Loans, and traveled many miles with him, often over rough roads and in cold of winter, and the fidelity, the unfailing zeal, and the personal sacrifice with which he prosecuted the work, commanded my unstinted respect and admiration. He was a true patriot. In all his work for the government, he never seemed to care anything for the personal credit or honor that might

naturally accrue to him from a successful performance of the work he was sent to accomplish, but ever seemed greatly concerned that the honor of his country should be maintained, the conflict pushed to complete and speedy victory, and the soldier boys amply provided for.

I have been a privileged guest in his beautiful home, and have known the sweetness of the sincere welcome by a princely host. I have seen him move among the loved ones of his home, and have seen his fine, high qualities of manhood successfully withstand the acid test of the light of his own fireside. I have marked the unfeigned esteem and love with which his family followed him, and how his coming brought light to their faces and joy to their hearts.

Such a man was William A. Miner. His memory is one of the precious possessions of my life. In that beautiful land to which he has gone, I am sure that he is one of the choice spirits of a glorious throng.
Bethany, 1920.

